

**James Madison to Benjamin W. Crowninshield,
December 15, 1814. Transcription: The Writings of
James Madison, ed. Gaillard Hunt. New York: G.P.
Putnam's Sons, 1900-1910.**

TO BENJAMIN W. CROWNINSHIELD.¹ MAD. MSS.

¹ On April 25th, 1814, Jones wrote to Madison that he must resign, as peace had come and he had only expected to serve during the war. On September 11th, alluding to this letter, he asked to be relieved on December 1st. He must go to work to make money, he said, as he had debts to meet.— *Mad. MSS.* On November 24th Madison wrote to Commodore John Rodgers asking him to be Secretary of the Navy; but, having been advised by the Attorney-General that a naval officer could not lawfully serve, he withdrew the offer December 4th.— *Chicago Hist. Soc. MSS.* On December 26th Crowninshield replied declining Madison's offer, but December 28th wrote accepting "at the special request of my political friends & the permission of my family."— *Mad. MSS.* He entered upon his duties January 16th, 1815.— *Ex. Reg. U. S.*, 85.

Wash. Decr. 15, 1814

Sir Mr. Jones having retired from the Secretaryship of the Navy, my thoughts have been turned to you as a desirable Successor; and I have this day sent in your name to the Senate for the appointment. I hope you will excuse my doing it without your consent which would have been asked, if the business of that Dept. had less urged an avoidance of delay. The same consideration will apologize for my hoping that it will not be inconsistent with your views to aid your Country in that Station, nor with your conveniency to be

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prepared to repair to it as soon as you may receive notice that the Senate have given effect to the nomination.

Accept Sir assurances of my esteem and of my friendly respects.